PREFACE

Nations, like individuals, eternally strive to attain peace and development. Some do so in cooperation with others while others do so in competition. The present work is about the cooperative endeavour between India and its neighbouring ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region.

The purpose of the present work is to describe how and attempt to explain why India and the ASEAN region since 1991 have been gradually moving from mutual indifference towards positive interdependence. This is a study of India's interaction with the entire ASEAN region as part of its 'Look East' policy launched since 1991. The study deals with the new relationship that is being forged between India and the ASEAN region since 1991. It examines the underlying causes for the shift in the mutual perceptions. It studies how various internal and external factors have combined to bring about a new turn in the relationship.

The present work is divided into five chapters dealing with different dimensions of India-ASEAN partnership since 1991. The first chapter provides introduction to the study. It briefly discusses the theoretical and conceptual issues involved in the study. It then provides the historical overview of the relationship between India and the ASEAN region prior to 1991.

The second chapter examines the political and strategic dimension of the emerging relationship between India and ASEAN since the end of the Cold War. It discusses the broad principles underlying the external policies and
relations of India and ASEAN in the emerging international system and the place they have in each other's world-view. It highlights the role of personality as an internal political factor that played a catalytic role in bringing the two sides closer. It deals with the role of external factors such as China, Myanmar, and the US in the relationship. It then discusses the non-military threats, being faced by India and Southeast Asian nations.

The third chapter deals with the economic dimension of the relationship. It discusses the emerging ties between India and ASEAN against the economic changes that have taken place in the domestic arena. It specifically highlights how the foreign economic policy has recently emerged as a federal issue in India and the potential implications it has for India-ASEAN economic partnership. It then deals with the Asian economic crisis and its impact on the economic relationship.

The fourth chapter examines the scientific and technological cooperation between India and ASEAN countries. It discusses the position of India and ASEAN members in the technological order. It then discusses imperatives for, obstacles to, and prospects for technological cooperation between India and ASEAN countries.

The fifth chapter deals with role of culture as a factor in the relationship. It briefly discusses cooperation in the tourism sector. It then deals with the initiatives launched to foster people-to-people contacts to broaden the relationship. It finally deals with the role of the Indian Diaspora as a binding factor. The study ends with conclusions.
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